Table 1-1: Global atmospheric concentration (ppm unless otherwise specified), rate of concentration change (ppb/year) and atmospheric lifetime (years) of selected greenhouse gases

Atmospheric Variable	**CO_2**	**CH_4**	**N_2O**	**SF_6[a]**	**CF_4[a]**
Pre-industrial atmospheric concentration	278	0.700	0.270	0	40
Atmospheric concentration (1998)	365	1.745	0.314	4.2	80
Rate of concentration change[b]	1.5[c]	0.007[c]	0.0008	0.24	1.0
Atmospheric Lifetime	50-200[d]	12[e]	114[e]	3,200	>50,000

Source: IPCC (2001)

[a] Concentrations in parts per trillion (ppt) and rate of concentration change in ppt/year.

[b] Rate is calculated over the period 1990 to 1999.

[c] Rate has fluctuated between 0.9 and 2.8 ppm per year for CO_2 and between 0 and 0.013 ppm per year for CH_4 over the period 1990 to 1999.

[d] No single lifetime can be defined for CO_2 because of the different rates of uptake by different removal processes.

[e] This lifetime has been defined as an "adjustment time" that takes into account the indirect effect of the gas on its own residence time.